

President's Message

In addressing my third annual message to the law-making branch of the Government, it is gratifying to be able to state that during the past year a successful general election has taken place. The policy has been to leave the people to the wisdom of the law, and to let them decide for themselves. The past year has been a year of general prosperity. The country has been blessed with a more than usual abundance in the loss of life and property by storm and fire. These disasters have served to call forth the best elements of a human nature in our country, and to develop a spirit of sympathy and benevolence towards the victims of these calamities. The benevolent who have so generously shared with the victims of these misfortunes, will reap their reward in the conclusion of having performed a noble act, and in receiving the grateful thanks of men, women and children, whose sufferings have been relieved.

FOREIGN RELATIONS—THE TREATY.

The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

THE TREATY.

I transmit herewith a copy of the Treaty of Commerce and Consular Rights between the United States and the Kingdom of Italy. This Treaty provides for the most favorable relations between the two countries. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

THE FISHERIES.

I recommend the legislation necessary on the part of the United States to bring into operation the articles of the Treaty relating to the fisheries. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY REGARDING CANALS.

I have addressed a communication, of which a copy is transmitted herewith, to the Governor of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin, urging upon the governments of these States respectively the necessary action on their part to carry into effect the object of the Article of the Treaty which contemplates the use of the canals on either side connected with the navigation of the lakes and rivers forming the boundary, on terms of equity by the inhabitants of both countries. It is hoped that the importance of the object and the benefits to flow therefrom, will secure the speedy approval and legislative sanction of the States concerned.

PROTECTION TO GERMAN IN FRANCE.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Germany have enabled me to give directions for the withdrawal of the protection extended to Germans in France by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States in that country. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

AUSTRIA AND ITALY.

The ratification of the Convention and Naturalization Convention with the Austro-Hungarian Empire have been exchanged. I have been officially informed of the evacuation of the States of the Church in the Kingdom of Italy, and the removal of the Capital of that Kingdom to Rome. In conformity with the established policy of the United States, I have recognized this change. The ratification of the new Treaty of Commerce between the United States and Italy have been exchanged. The two Powers have agreed to exempt from import duties, in case of war between the two Powers, the United States have agreed to exempt from import duties, in case of war between the two Powers, the United States have agreed to exempt from import duties, in case of war between the two Powers.

THE COMMISSION ON SPANISH CLAIMS.

The XLIII Congress at its Third session

made an appropriation for the organization of a Mixed Commission for adjudicating upon the claims of citizens of the United States against Spain, growing out of the Insurrection in Cuba. This Commission has since been organized. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

The intimate friendly relations which have long existed between the United States and Russia, continue undisturbed. The visit of the third son of the Emperor is a proof that there is no desire on the part of his Government to diminish the cordiality of those relations. The hospitable reception which has been given to the Grand Duke is a proof that on our side we share the wishes of that Government. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

JAPAN, CORREA, CHINA.

With Japan we continue to maintain intimate relations. The Cabinet of the Mikado has, since the close of the last session of Congress, selected citizens of the United States to serve in offices of importance in several departments of government. I have reason to think that this selection is due to an appreciation of the disinterestedness of the policy which the United States have pursued towards Japan. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

MEXICO, CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA.

The Republic of Mexico has not yet repealed the very objectionable laws establishing what is known as the Free Zone on the frontier of the United States. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

SPAIN AND CUBA.

It is a subject for regret that the reforms in this direction which were voluntarily promised by the Government of Spain have not been carried out in the West India colonies. The laws and regulations for the representation of Slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico have most of the laborers in bondage, with no hope of release until their lives become a burden to their employers. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

MEASURES FOR IMPROVING OUR RELATIONS WITH AFRICA.

To give importance and to add to the efficiency of our diplomatic relations with Africa and China, and to further aid in retaining the good opinion of those peoples, it is secure to the United States its share of the commercial world, it is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

at least four American youths in each of those countries to serve as part of the official family of our Ministers there. Our representatives would not even then be placed on an equality with the representatives of Great Britain, and some other Powers. As now situated, our representatives in Japan and China have to depend for interpreters and translators upon natives of those countries who know our language imperfectly, or procure for the occasion the services of employees in foreign business houses, or the interpreters to clear foreign matters.

NATIONAL FINANCES.

The National Debt has been reduced to the extent of \$86,057,124.80 during the year; and by the negotiation of national bonds at a lower rate of interest, the interest on the public debt has been so far diminished that now the sum to be raised for the interest account is nearly \$17,000,000 less than on the first of March 1869.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The enlarged receipts of the Post Office Department, as shown by the accompanying report of the Postmaster-General, exhibit a gratifying increase in that branch of the public service. It is the index of the growth of education and of the prosperity of the people; two elements highly conducive to the vigor and stability of a Republic. With a vast territory like ours, much of it sparsely populated, but all requiring the service of the mail, it is at present to be expected that this Department can be made self-sustaining; but a gradual approach to this end from year to year is confidently relied on, and the day is not far distant when the Post Office Department of the Government will prove a much greater blessing to the whole people than it is now. It is a year of peace and harmony. The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been a year of peace and harmony.

KU KLUX AND MARTIAL LAW IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

There has been imposed upon the Executive branch of the Government the execution of the Act of Congress approved April 20, 1871, and commonly known as the Ku-Klux law in a portion of the State of South Carolina. The necessity of the course pursued will be demonstrated by the report of the Committee to Investigate Southern outrages under the provisions of the above act. I have issued a proclamation calling the attention of the people of the United States to the same, and declaring my reluctance to use any of the extraordinary powers thereby conferred upon me, except in case of imperative necessity, but making known my purpose to exercise such power whenever it should become necessary to do so, for the purpose of securing to all citizens of the United States the peaceful enjoyment of the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution and laws. After the passage of this law, information was received from time to time that combinations of the character referred to in this law existed, and were powerful in many parts of the Southern States, particularly in certain counties in the State of South Carolina. Careful investigation was made and it was ascertained that in nine counties of that State such combinations were active and powerful, embracing a sufficient portion of the citizens to control the local authority, and having, among other things, the object of depriving the emancipated class of the substantial benefits of freedom and of preventing the free political action of those citizens who did not sympathize with their own views. Among their operations were frequent scourings and occasional assassinations, generally perpetrated at night by disguised persons; the victims in almost all cases being citizens of different political sentiments from their own, or freed persons who had shown a disposition to claim equal rights with other citizens. Thousands of innocent and well-disposed citizens were the sufferers by this lawless violence. Thereupon, on the 12th of October, a proclamation was issued in terms of the law calling upon the members of these combinations, to disperse within five days, and to deliver to the Marshal, or military officers of the United States, all arms, ammunition, uniforms, daggers, and other means and implements used by them for carrying out their lawless purposes. This warning not having been heeded, on the 17th of October another proclamation was issued suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus in nine counties in that State. Disunion was given that within the counties designated, persons supposed, upon credible information, to be members of such lawless combinations, should be arrested by the military forces of the United States, and delivered to the Marshal, to be dealt with according to law. In two of said counties—Rich and Spartanburg—many arrests have been made. At the last account the number

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

For the operations of the army in the past year, the expenses of maintaining it, the estimates for the ensuing year, and for continuing sea-coast and other improvements conducted under the supervision of the War Department, I refer you to the accompanying report of the Secretary of War.

I call your attention to the provision of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1869, which discontinued promotions in the Staff corps of the army until provided for by law. I recommend that the number officers in each grade of the Staff corps be fixed, and that whenever the number in any one grade falls below the number so fixed, that the vacancy may be filled by promotion from the grade below. I also recommend that when the office of chief of a corps becomes vacant, the place may be filled by selection from the corps in which the vacancy exists.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows an improvement in the number and efficiency of the naval force, without material increase in the expense of supporting it. This is due to the policy which has been adopted, and is being extended as far as our material will admit, of using smaller vessels of cruising the several stations. By this means we have been enabled to occupy at once a larger extent of cruising ground, to visit more frequently the ports where the presence of our flag is desirable, and generally to discharge more efficiently the appropriate duties of the navy in time of peace, without exceeding the number of men or the expenditure authorized by law. During the past year the navy has, in addition to its regular service, supplied the men and officers for the vessels of the Coast Survey, and has completed the surveys, authorized by Congress, of the Isthmus of Darien and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and under the authority of the act of Congress, completely

furnished and equipped to explore the unknown coast of the North. The suggestions of the report as to the necessity for increasing and improving the material of the Navy, and the plan recommended for reducing the personnel of the service to a peace standard by the gradual abolition of certain grades of officers, the reduction of others, and the employment of some in the service of the commercial marine are well considered, and deserve the thoughtful attention of Congress. I also recommend that all promotions in the navy above the rank of captain be by selection, instead of by seniority; this course will secure in the higher grades greater efficiency, and hold out an incentive to young officers to improve themselves in the knowledge of their profession. The present cost of maintaining the navy, its cost compared with that of the preceding year, and the estimates for the ensuing year, are contained in the accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy.

THE POLYGOAMOUS MORMONS.

In Utah there still remains a remnant of barbarism, repugnant to civilization, to decency, and to the laws of the United States. Territorial officers, however, have been found who are willing to perform their duty in a spirit of equity, and with a due sense of sustaining the majesty of the law. Neither polygamy nor any other violation of existing statutes will be permitted within the territory of the United States. It is not with the religion of the self-styled saints that we are now dealing, but with their practices. They will be protected in the worship of God according to the dictates of their conscience, but they will not be permitted to violate the laws under the cloak of religion. It may be advisable for Congress to consider what, in the execution of the law against polygamy, is to be the status of plural wives and their offspring. The property of Congress passing an Enabling Act authorizing the Territorial Legislature of Utah to legitimate all children born prior to a time fixed in the act, might be justified by its humanity to these innocent children. This is a suggestion only, and not a recommendation.

THE INDIAN POLICY.

The policy pursued toward the Indians has resulted favorably, so far as can be judged from the limited time during which it has been in operation. Through the exertions of the various Societies of Christians, to whom has been entrusted the execution of the policy, and the Board of Commissioners authorized by the law of April 10, 1869, many tribes of Indians have been induced to settle upon reservations, to cultivate the soil, to perform productive labor of various kinds, and to partially accept civilization. They are being cared for in such a way, it is hoped, as to induce those still pursuing their old habits of life to embrace the only opportunity which is left them to avoid extermination. I recommend liberal appropriations to carry out this Indian peace policy, not only because it is humane, Christianlike, and economical, but because it is right.

PUBLIC LANDS AND AGRICULTURE.

I renew my recommendation that the public lands be regarded as a heritage to our children, to be disposed of only as required for occupation and to actual settlers. Those already granted have been in great part disposed of in such a way as to secure access to the balance by the hardy settler who may wish to avail himself of them. But caution should be exercised, even in attaining so desirable an object. Educational interest may well be served by the grant of proceeds of sale of public lands to settlers. I do not wish to be understood as recommending in the least degree a curtailment of what is being done by the General Government for the encouragement of education.

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

By the great fire in Chicago, the most important of the Government buildings in that city were consumed. Those burned had already become inadequate to the wants of the Government, in that growing city, and, looking to the near future, were totally inadequate. I recommend, therefore, that an appropriation be made immediately to purchase the remainder of the square on which the burned buildings stood, provided it can be purchased at a fair valuation, or provided that the Legislature of Illinois will pass a law authorizing its condemnation for Government purposes; and also an appropriation of as much money as can be expended toward the erection of new buildings during this fiscal year.

LEGISLATION NEEDED FOR IMMIGRANTS.

The number of immigrants ignorant of our laws and habits, and coming into our country annually, has become so great and the impositions practiced upon them so numerous and flagrant, that I suggest Congressional action for their protection. It seems to me a fair subject of legislation by Congress. I cannot now state as fully as I desire the nature of the complaints made by emigrants of the treatment they receive, but will endeavor to do so during the session of Congress, particularly if the subject should receive your attention.

THE HONESTY OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.

It has been the aim of the Administration to enforce honesty and efficiency in all public office. Every public servant who has violated the trust placed in him has been proceeded against with all the vigor of the law. If he had been more numerous and flagrant, that I suggest Congressional action for their protection. It seems to me a fair subject of legislation by Congress. I cannot now state as fully as I desire the nature of the complaints made by emigrants of the treatment they receive, but will endeavor to do so during the session of Congress, particularly if the subject should receive your attention.

COMPENSATION TO READERS OF DEPARTMENT.

The subject of compensation to the heads of departments and officials holding positions of responsibility and requiring ability and character to fill them properly, is a subject which your attention is invited to. The officials receive a compensation equal to the respectable support of a family, while their duties are such as to involve millions of interest. In private

life, services demand compensation equal to the services rendered. A wise economy would dictate the same rule in the Government service. I have not given the estimates for the support of the Government for the past year, or the comparative statement between the expenditures for the year just past and the one just preceding, because all these figures are contained in the accompanying reports, or in those presented directly to Congress. These estimates have my approval.

AN AMNESTY ACT RECOMMENDED.

More than six years having elapsed since the last hostile gun was fired between the armies then arrayed against each other, one for the perpetration, the other for the destruction of the Union, it may well be considered whether it is not now time that the disabilities imposed by the XIVth Amendment, should be removed. That amendment does not exclude the ballot, but only imposes the disability to hold office upon certain classes. When the purity of the ballot is secure, majorities are sure to elect officers reflecting the views of the majority. It does not seem the advantage or propriety of excluding men from office merely because they were before the Rebellion of standing and character sufficient to be elected to positions requiring them to take oaths to support the Constitution, and admitting to the eligibility those entertaining precisely the same views but of less standing in their communities. It may be said that the former violated an oath while the latter did not. The latter did not have it in their power to do so. If they had taken this oath, it cannot be doubted they would have broken it, as did the former class. If there are any great criminals distinguished above all others for the part they took in opposition to the Government, they might, in the judgment of Congress, be excluded from such an amnesty.

LEGISLATION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved Feb. 21, 1871, a Territorial Government was organized in the District of Columbia. Its results have thus far fully realized the expectations of its advocates. Under the direction of the Territorial officers a system of improvements has been inaugurated, by means of which Washington is rapidly becoming a city worthy of being the Nation's capital. The citizens of the District having voluntarily taxed themselves to a large amount for the purpose of contributing to the adornment of the seat of Government, I recommend liberal appropriations on the part of Congress, in order that the Government may bear its just share of the expense of carrying out a judicious system of improvements.

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

By the great fire in Chicago, the most important of the Government buildings in that city were consumed. Those burned had already become inadequate to the wants of the Government, in that growing city, and, looking to the near future, were totally inadequate. I recommend, therefore, that an appropriation be made immediately to purchase the remainder of the square on which the burned buildings stood, provided it can be purchased at a fair valuation, or provided that the Legislature of Illinois will pass a law authorizing its condemnation for Government purposes; and also an appropriation of as much money as can be expended toward the erection of new buildings during this fiscal year.

LEGISLATION NEEDED FOR IMMIGRANTS.

The number of immigrants ignorant of our laws and habits, and coming into our country annually, has become so great and the impositions practiced upon them so numerous and flagrant, that I suggest Congressional action for their protection. It seems to me a fair subject of legislation by Congress. I cannot now state as fully as I desire the nature of the complaints made by emigrants of the treatment they receive, but will endeavor to do so during the session of Congress, particularly if the subject should receive your attention.

THE HONESTY OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.

It has been the aim of the Administration to enforce honesty and efficiency in all public office. Every public servant who has violated the trust placed in him has been proceeded against with all the vigor of the law. If he had been more numerous and flagrant, that I suggest Congressional action for their protection. It seems to me a fair subject of legislation by Congress. I cannot now state as fully as I desire the nature of the complaints made by emigrants of the treatment they receive, but will endeavor to do so during the session of Congress, particularly if the subject should receive your attention.

COMPENSATION TO READERS OF DEPARTMENT.

The subject of compensation to the heads of departments and officials holding positions of responsibility and requiring ability and character to fill them properly, is a subject which your attention is invited to. The officials receive a compensation equal to the respectable support of a family, while their duties are such as to involve millions of interest. In private

LEGISLATION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved Feb. 21, 1871, a Territorial Government was organized in the District of Columbia. Its results have thus far fully realized the expectations of its advocates. Under the direction of the Territorial officers a system of improvements has been inaugurated, by means of which Washington is rapidly becoming a city worthy of being the Nation's capital. The citizens of the District having voluntarily taxed themselves to a large amount for the purpose of contributing to the adornment of the seat of Government, I recommend liberal appropriations on the part of Congress, in order that the Government may bear its just share of the expense of carrying out a judicious system of improvements.

